



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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WIRELINER COMPETITION BUREAU SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO FCC FORMS 472, 473 and 474

Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism

CC Docket No. 02-6

Comments Date: March 22, 2005
Reply Comments Date: April 5, 2005

The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) seeks comment on proposed revisions to three existing Commission forms used in the schools and libraries universal support mechanism (E-Rate program). Drafts of the three forms, FCC Forms 472, 473, and 474, and draft instructions for each form, are attached as Attachment A.

The proposed revisions to the forms are a continuation of the efforts made in the *Schools and Libraries Fifth Report and Order* to strengthen oversight of the E-Rate program and combat waste, fraud, and abuse.¹ Notice concerning revisions to these forms as well as other E-Rate forms was issued in the Federal Register on August 30, 2004.² The Bureau provides here specifically the proposed revisions to FCC Forms 472, 473 and 474 in order to provide opportunity for additional public comment. Pursuant to this Public Notice, the Bureau establishes the above referenced comment period of fifteen days and a reply comment period of ten days.

FCC Form 472. Form 472 is the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement Form (BEAR), which is used by the applicant, or Billed Entity, to request reimbursement for discounts on eligible services for which the applicant has already paid the service provider. Among the proposed revisions to Form 472 are the requirement of additional contact information for the Billed Entity, and information on the employer of the individual who signs the form. The proposed revisions also include reference to the FCC

¹ *Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism*, CC Docket No. 02-6, Fifth Report and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 15808 (2004) (*Schools and Libraries Fifth Report and Order*).

² 69 Fed. Reg. 52902, 52903; 44 U.S.C. 3507(1)(D). The 60-day public notice period pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act has been completed for revised versions of all three proposed forms. No comments were filed in response to the publication in the Federal Register.

Registration Number and additional of certifications against waste, fraud and abuse, pursuant to the *Schools and Libraries Fifth Report and Order*.³

FCC Form 473. Form 473, the Service Provider Annual Certification Form, is used when service providers anticipate direct reimbursement from the program's administrators. Service providers attest in Form 473 that the invoices to be submitted to the program are anticipated to comply with the Commission's rules governing the program. Service providers must submit Form 473 to be eligible to submit invoices, and to use their Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN). The proposed revisions to Form 473 would require service providers to provide a FCC Registration Number and, in the case of telecommunications carriers, a FCC Form 499 Filer identification number. Service providers also would have to identify the employer of the individual who signs the form, and affirm certifications against waste, fraud and abuse pursuant to the *Schools and Libraries Fifth Report and Order*.⁴ In addition, in place of the multiple SPINs for each Form 473 permitted under the existing FCC Form 473, the revised Form 473 permits only one SPIN per form.

FCC Form 474. Form 474 is the Service Provider Invoice Form, through which service providers obtain universal service funding in the amount of the discounts afforded to applicants under the program. The proposed revised Form 474 includes reference to the FCC Registration Number.

For further information, contact Greg Lipscomb in the Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, at (202) 418-7400, TTY (202) 418-8200.

³ *Schools and Libraries Fifth Report and Order*, 19 FCC Rcd at 15821-22, 30, paras. 42, 64.

⁴ *Id.* at 15832, 48, paras. 70-71, Appendix B.